

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Categorical Exclusion
DOI-BLM-CO-SO50-2015-0011 CX**

November 2014

Snyder/Mex & Sons Grazing Preference Transfer

Location: Norwood, Colorado

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401
Phone: (970) 240-5300**



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PROJECT NAME: Snyder/Mex & Sons Grazing Preference Transfer

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 46 N., R. 16. W., Sec. 5-10, 17-23, 26-28 NMPM.

APPLICANT: Raymond Snyder

BACKGROUND: BLM records show that grazing preference and base property for Naturita Ridge allotment #17035 have been held by Raymond Snyder since the mid-1970s. Raymond Snyder also operates under the name Mex & Sons, L.L.L.P. In November 2014 Raymond Snyder submitted an application to change the base property from one owned by Phyllis and Raymond Snyder (the Thompson Place) to one owned by Mex & Sons, L.L.L.P (the Basin Property).

The transfer of grazing preference is considered administrative in nature and serves to transfer livestock grazing privileges, with the same class of livestock and forage allocation, from one grazing preference holder to another. Approval of grazing preference transfers are outlined in 43 CFR 4110.2-1(d) and 4110.2-3.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

The proposed action is to transfer grazing preference from a property owned by Phyllis and Raymond Snyder to one owned by Mex & Sons, L.L.L.P. The result of the proposed action is that the base property for Naturita Ridge #17035 allotment would be transferred from a 776 acre property known as the Thompson Place to a 4,032 acre property known as the Basin Property. The base property proposed by Mex & Sons has been found to be qualified base property, and Mex & Sons have been found to be qualified applicants.

The grazing allotment involved and the associated grazing preference and season of use are summarized in the table below. The proposed action is compliant with 43 CFR 4110.2-1(d) and 4110.2-3.

Allotment Name & No.	Percent Public Land	Active AUM's	Suspended AUM's	Permitted AUM's	Permitted Season of Use
Naturita Ridge #17035	100	440	0	440	12/15 – 2/28

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: San Juan-San Miguel Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: September 5, 1985

Decision Number/Page: Page 26

Decision Language: The San Juan-San Miguel RMP management guidance states "Management direction will emphasize increasing forage and livestock production on a sustained yield basis. Emphasis is upon increasing forage, red meat and animal fiber production ..."

Name of Plan 1989 Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision

Date Approved: 1989

Decision Number/Page: 11

Decision Language: Suitable public lands will be available for livestock grazing use.

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with these plans (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3).

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The proposed action qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, Number D.1, which allows "approval of transfers of grazing preference". This is the administrative approval of grazing preference transfer applications.

None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exclusion	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.	_____	___X___
2. Have adverse effects on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands, floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	_____	___X___
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.	_____	___X___
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	_____	___X___
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in		

- principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. ___ X
6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. ___ X
 7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. ___ X
 8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species. ___ X+
 9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. ___ X
 10. Have disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations. ___ X
 11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. ___ X
 12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species. ___ X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Glade Hadden	Archeologist
Ken Holsinger	Biologist

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: There are no known Cultural Resource concerns for this project. Inventory is not required under the provision of BLM Manual 8110.23B4 and the 2014 BLM/Colorado State Protocol.

Native American Religious Concerns: There are none known or anticipated for this undertaking.

Threatened and Endangered Species: Transfer of grazing preference will have no direct or indirect impact to ESA listed or BLM sensitive species. There are no animal or plant species listed, proposed, or candidate to the Endangered Species Act that are known to inhabit or derive important use of the Naturita Ridge Allotment.

NAME OF PREPARER: Angela LoSasso

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:



DATE: 12/22/14

DECISION AND RATIONALE:

I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to approve the administrative transfer of grazing preference on Naturita Ridge allotment #17035 from a property owned by Phyllis and Raymond Snyder to one owned by Mex & Sons, L.L.L.P.

There are no impacts to public land since the transfer action only results in a transfer of grazing preference. The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, Section: D, Range Management, Number 1, which allows "approval of transfers of grazing preference". I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Barbara Sharrow
Barbara Sharrow
Field Manager
Uncompahgre Field Office

DATE SIGNED: 12-24-14

